

Some Records of Curculionidae (Coleoptera) from Cumbria Collected in 1978

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During 1978 I made a number of collecting trips to some interesting sites in Cumbria mainly to collect Curculionoidae and also make biological and ecological observations on certain species. Most of the sites visited were in West Cumbria and, in particular, the coastal areas between Maryport and Haverigg were more intensively worked.

Records and brief notes of the more interesting and local species taken are given here, together with some additional records of Curculionidae previously recorded by me as new to vice county 70 Cumberland. With the exception of one species, the following were recorded from the county by F. H. Day (The Coleoptera of Cumberland, 1923, *Trans. Carlisle nat. Hist. Soc.*, **3**, 99-105).

Otiorhynchus desertus Rosenhauer. — One specimen was taken by grubbing at the base of a large plant of *Plantago maritima* L. by the side of a cliff top path near St. Bees, on the South Head on 30th of September. Day (l.c.; 99) recorded the species from Carleton, Castle Carrock Fell (Murray) and Easby. Two specimens from the county in the Day collection at Tullie House Museum Carlisle bear the following data, St. Bees 16.vii.26 and Orton, 20.4.15 (J. Murray).

Trachyphloeus aristatus (Gyllenhal). — I took two specimens at the base of *Plantago coronopus* L. and *P. lanceolata* L. on sandy soil at the foot of a sand hill by the River Ehen near Braystones on the 7th of October. Several specimens of *T. bifoveolatus* Beck were also taken at this site by grubbing at the base of *P. lanceolata*. The species of this genus are mainly nocturnal in habit. Adults are rarely seen on the plants during the daytime and in a recent interesting note by A. A. Allen (1978, *Ent. Rec.*, **90**: 175) *T. bifoveolatus* was observed at night to be attracted in large numbers to a street lamp. When kept in captivity for a short time at home, I observed the above two species to feed quite extensively on provided leaves of *P. coronopus* and *P. lanceolata*, and feeding was mainly confined to the edges of each leaf where they made regular notch marks. It is possible that species of *Plantago* may be among the main hostplants for these weevils. From my experience in West Cumbria, *Trachyphloeus* species seem to favour sandstone and limestone areas on the coast.

Polydrusus chrysomela (Olivier). — This species occurred in numbers on the saltmarsh near Esk viaduct, Ravenglass on the 17th of June. Most specimens were found by grubbing at the base of *Plantago maritima* L. and several were found feeding on the edges of the leaves where they made distinct notch marks. A number of other plants of *P. maritima* were found with similar feeding on the leaves and adults were

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found at the base. One pair *in copula* was also found at the base of one plant of *P. maritima* on saltmarsh on the same day by the River Esk estuary near Waberthwaite Church. Nearly all specimens seen were in good condition and varied from green to a golden brown. *Artemisia vulgaris* L. is usually given as the foodplant of *P. chrysomela* in the literature.

P. flavipes (Degeer). — One specimen was beaten from a mature oak on the edge of Sowerby Wood near Dalston on the 15th of July and one other was beaten from silver birch. Day (*l.c.*: 100) recorded the species from Orton and Kingmoor and stated 'very local'. *P. flavipes* can be confused in the field with the more common *P. pterygomalis* Boheman. A character useful in separating the two species is the absence of the prominent ridge above the eyes in *P. flavipes*. In the same wood I took one specimen of *Magdalis phlegmatica* (Herbst) by beating large bushes of *Calluna vulgaris* growing near to pines along the main ride. This essentially northern species was recorded by Day (*l.c.*: 105) from Orton Durdar and Kirkbampton. Several specimens of *Anoplus roboris* Suffrian were taken at this same site by beating alder saplings together with a few adults of *Rhynchaenus stigma* (Germar).

Trachodes hispidus (Linnaeus). — One dead specimen of this interesting weevil was extracted from samples of oak leaf litter and moss collected from an oak wood at Kid Beck How near Strands, Wastwater on the 22nd of October. The species was recorded by Day (*l.c.*: 101) and is based on a very old record from Carlisle by T. C. Heysham. The eight specimens in the Day collection in Tullie House, Carlisle, are all from the well known locality Buddon Wood, Leicestershire and were collected by W. Bevins. The labels bear the date 8.05. The weevil has been recorded from a number of localities in England and Wales, and it was first recorded from Scotland by R. A. Crowson (1964, *Glasg. Nat.*, **18**, 374), who took it by beating oak at Garroch, Dalry, Kirkcudbrightshire. The larvae live in the rotting wood of oak and various other trees and the larva and pupa have been illustrated by Scherf, H. (1964, *Abh. senckenb. naturforsch. Ges.*, **506**: 170-171). R. A. Crowson (1971, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, **107**: 254) records taking the larvae under oak bark in Roudsea Wood Nature reserve, North Lancashire. In a detailed paper, E. C. Zimmerman (1964, *Can. Ent.*, **99**: 1093-1100) first recorded it from America and describes and illustrates the adult and also the male and female genitalia together with other diagnostic characters.

Ceuthorrhynchidius dawsoni (Brisout). — I took two specimens by grubbing at the base of *Plantago coronopus* L. by the side of a cliff footpath at Pattering Holes, St. Bees on 30th of September. The species was not recorded by Day and in personal communication from Dr. M. G. Morris this is a new county record. Joy (1932, *Pract. Handbook of British Beetles*, **1**: 194) states "very local" and he gives the distri-

bution as England, Scotland and Ireland. It was recorded from the Isle of Man by H. Britten, (1945, *North Western Naturalist*, 20: 201), who records it in numbers at the roots of *Plantago maritima* L.

Ceuthorhynchus quercicola (Paykull). — One was beaten from a hawthorn hedge by the side of a field near Colmire Sough, Wigton on the 10th of June. Day (*l.c.*: 104) recorded it from Wan Fell (Britten), Orton and Cumwhitton. It is listed under the old generic name *Ceuthorhynchideus*. The weevil is associated with *Fumaria officinalis* and is scarce in Britain.

C. triangulum Boheman. — One specimen was swept from roadside vegetation below a hawthorn hedge near Hall Carleton, Drigg on 27th May. This distinctive weevil was first recorded from the county by Murray, (1934, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, 70: 19) who took it at Floriston near the Scottish border south of Gretna on nettle. Joy (*l.c.*: 200) states that the species is rare and gives the distribution as "England south to Norfolk". The foodplant *Achillea millefolium* L. was noted growing at the above site.

Curculio nucum L. — I was fortunate to beat one fine specimen from the low foliage of a mature ash tree growing by the side of Black Beck below Robertgate Bridge near Calderbridge on the 23rd July. The only record given by Day (*l.c.*: 105) is Blackhall Wood (T. C. Heysham). The specimen I took may have strayed from a nearby hazel hedge by the side of a cart track below the bridge.

The following species have been previously recorded by me as new to the county and additional records are given below.

Trachyploeus laticollis Boheman. — This species wrongly identified was recorded in error as *T. scabriculus* in 1977, *Entomologist's Gaz.*, 28: 71, one near Couderton, Nethertown, NX97/09, 22.iv.78, grubbing at base of *Hypochoeris radicata* L. on railway bank. One Braystones, NX99/06, 7.x.78 at base of *P. lanceolata* L. One resting on blade of grass and two by grubbing at base of *P. coronopus* L. on cliff top at Patterning Holes, St. Bees, NX95/11, 30.ix.78. Fleswick, St. Bees Head, NX94/13, 22.iv.78, one at base of *Plantago lanceolata* L.

Caenopsis fissirostris (Walton). — All specimens taken have been extracted mainly from oak leaf litter and moss. Parkbreast Coppice, Nr. Santon Bridge, NY11/00, 26.xi.78, four. Kid Beck How, near Strands, NY11/04, 22.x.78, three. Birks Wood, near Strands, NY12/04, one. Nicle Wood, Silecroft, SD14/81, 14.x.78, one. Near Ellerbeck farm, Birkby, SD11/96, 29.x.78, two.

C. waltoni (Boheman). — Nethertown station, NX98/07, 17.vi.78, one at base of *P. lanceolata* L. by footpath. One at base of *P. maritima* L. near Patterning Holes, St. Bees, NX95/11, 30.ix.78. One grubbing at base of *P. lanceolata* and one at base of *Rumex acetosella* L. on South Head,

Rottington, NX95/12, 22.4.78. Two at base of *Hypochoeris radicata* L. near Fleswick Bay, Rottington, NX94/13, 30.ix.78.

Sitona ambiguus Gyllenhal. — Eight shaken from *Vicia sepium* L. on bank by road side near Sandwith, Whitehaven, NX96/14, 14.v.78. Four on *V. sepium* L. near High Walton, Bigrigg, NX98/12, 17.vi.78. Six shaken from *V. cracca* L. by roadside near Parton, NX98/20, 30.vii.77. Two on *V. sepium* L. near High Godderthwaite, Calderbridge, NY03/06, 23.vii.78. Clints quarry, Egremont, NY00/12, 6.v.78 one at base of *V. sepium*. Whitelees Wood, Aspatria, NY17/41, 19.viii.78 one swept from general vegetation by disused railway line. Near Saltcoats, Ravenglass, SD07/97, 25.vi.78, general sweeping. One tapped from *Urtica dioica* L. near Greenroad Station, Millom, SD19/83, 8.viii.78. In the past there has been some confusion between *S. ambiguus* and *S. lineellus* (Bonsdorff), the latter being known as *decipiens* Lindberg. Kevin, (1962, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, 98: 171) explains fully the synonymy of *lineellus* and B. Noe-Nygaard, (1972, *Ent. Meddr.*, 40: 25-27) gives an illustrated account of the main taxonomic characters for separating the two species. They are punctuation marks on the frons and the shape of the apex of the median lobe. In my experience of *S. ambiguus* in Cumbria, I nearly always find it on *V. sepium* growing among general vegetation in inland situations especially along roadside verges, while *S. lineellus* appears to be more restricted to coastal habitats and on its foodplant *Lotus corniculatus* L. *S. ambiguus* has recently been recorded as new to Somerset by P. J. Hodge, (1978, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, 114: 82).

Gymnetron antirrhini (Paykull). — Adults have been taken on most occasions inside the flowers of *Linaria vulgaris* Miller. Three near Moresby Church, Parton, NX98/21, 31.vii.77. One near Workington, NX99/30, 26.viii.78. Two by River Ellen, Maryport NY03/36, 26.viii.78. Haverigg, Millom, SD15/78, 29.vii.78 one resting below flowers of *Linaria vulgaris* on sand dune. Near Silecroft station, SD12/82, 19.viii.78, in numbers on *L. vulgaris* on railway bank.

I thank Dr. M. G. Morris, Furzebrook Research Station, Dorset, and Dr. R. A. Crowson, Glasgow University for confirming the identity of certain species recorded here. I also thank Mr. Martindale, Forestry Commission, for giving permission to collect in Sowerby Wood and also Mr. Paisley for allowing me to collect at the Colmire Sough site.

AGROTIS EXCLAMATIONIS L. (HEART AND DART) IN MARCH.
— A fresh specimen of this moth was caught at the M.V. light trap at Charterhouse, Godalming, on 12th March 1980. Although moths were generally out earlier than usual, this does seem an exceptionally early date for this species to be on the wing. — M. ELVIDGE, Cable House, Horsell Rise, Woking, Surrey.